

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 JOHANN 02293 291507Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 DHA-05 IO-13 HEW-04 AID-05 CU-04 /088 W

-----099623 291522Z /44

R 291330Z AUG 77

FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6626

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JOHANNESBURG 2293

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SEDU, PINT, SF

SUBJECT: CATHOLICS DEBATE POLICY ON OPEN SCHOOLS

1. ON AUGUST 22, MEETING OVER 100 CATHOLIC BISHOPS, EDUCATORS AND PARENTS INVOLVED IN "OPEN" SCHOOLS WAS HELD IN JOHANNESBURG CHAIRED BY ARCHBISHOP DENNIS HURLEY. PURPOSE OF MEETING WAS TO DISCUSS SITUATION REGARDING BLACK STUDENTS IN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS. RACIAL COMPOSITION OF MEETING: 80 WHITES, 2 INDIANS, 10 COLORED, 8 BLACKS.

2. HURLEY SAID THERE ARE PRESENTLY 170 COLORED, 30 INDIAN AND 20 BLACK CHILDREN ENROLLED AT 13 "WHITE" PRIVATE CATHOLIC SCHOOLS THROUGHOUT RSA. AT MARCH 19, 1977 MEETING WITH EDMIN PIET KOORNHOF, MINISTER HAD DELIVERED ULTIMATUM THAT IF BISHOPS DID NOT AGREE TO DISCONTINUE ENROLLING NON-WHITE STUDENTS THIS SCHOOL YEAR, AND DISENROLL THOSE STUDENTS ALREADY ADMITTED AT THE END OF THE SCHOOL YEAR, HE WOULD CLOSE DOWN THE SCHOOLS. MINISTER REPORTEDLY SAID ISSUE WAS NOT A LEGAL ONE BUT A POLITICAL ONE WHICH THEREFORE HAD TO BE DISCUSSED AT CABINET LEVEL.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 JOHANN 02293 291507Z

BISHOPS ACCEDED TO ONE OF MINISTER'S DEMANDS-- NH TO ENROLL ANY MORE NON-WHITE STUDENTS THIS SCHOOL YEAR. MINISTER SAID HE NEEDED TIME BEFORE HE COULD GIVE CHURCH A REPLY ON WHETHER PRIVATE SCHOOLS COULD ACCEPT BLACK STUDENTS. SINCE MARCH MEETING CATHOLIC BISHOPS HAVE SENT TWO TELEGRAMS ASKING FOR A REPLY, TO WHICH MINISTER HAS NOT RESPONDED.

3. DISCUSSION (ATTENDED BY USIS JOHANNESBURG LOCAL EMPLOYEE) BY PARTICIPANTS OCCUPIED MOST OF DAY. COMMENTS RAN GAMUT FROM STATEMENTS SUCH AS "BY ADMITTING BLACKS TO WHITE SCHOOLS, THE STANDARD OF EDUCATION WILL SUFFER" TO ACCUSATIONS THAT THE CHURCH WAS BEING RACIST AND PROMOTING SAG SYSTEM (LATTER COMMENT MADE BY SECRETARY OF BLACK PRIESTS SOLIDARITY MOVEMENT). WHEN VOTE ULTIMATELY TAKEN, MAJORITY NARROWLY VOTED TO MAKE NO RECOMMENDATIONS TO CATHOLIC BISHOPS AS TO WHAT THEY SHOULD DO, THOUGH ONE MOTION, NARROWLY DEFEATED, CALLED FOR BISHOPS, IF THEY DID NOT RECEIVE REPLY FROM MINISTER IN THREE WEEKS, TO TAKE PUBLIC STAND TO EFFECT THEY WOULD YONOR PLEDGE ABOUT NOT ADMITTING MOR BLACK STUDENTS IN 1977, BUT WOULD ALLOW OTHERS TO ENROLL IN 1978.

4. WHILE NO VOTE WAS TAKEN ON ISSUE AND HURLEY INDICATED HE PREFERRED NOT GIVE HIS PERSONAL OPINION ON WHAT SHOULD BE DONE IF MINISTER RESPONDED NEGATIVELY, CONSENSUS OF MEETING SEEMED TO BE THAT CHURCH SHOULD CARRY ON AND ADMIT BLACKS IN 1978 UNTIL SAG FORCED SCHOOLS TO CLOSE. BISHOPS INDI ATED THEY PLAN TO MEET TOGETHER THIS WEEK TO DISCUSS WHAT TO DO IF REPLY IS NOT RECEIVED FROM MINISTER WITHIN THREE WEEKS. IF CRISIS SITUATION DEVELOPS, HURLEY SAID HE WOULD CONVENE ANOTHER MEETING WITH SAME PARTICIPANTS.

5. DURING DISCUSSION SESSION, SPEAKERS RAISED POSSIBILITY SAG MAY ALLOW COLORED AND INDIAN CHILDREN TO ATTEND "OPEN" LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 JOHANN 02293 291507Z

SCHOOLS IN VIEW OF RECENT STATEMENTS IN THE PRESS REGARDING CONTEMPLATED CHANGE IN THE PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEM. SEVERAL PARTICIPANTS OBJECTED TO THIS POSSIBILITY BECAUSE BLACK CHILDREN WOULD CONTINUE TO BE EXCLUDED. SEVERAL SPEAKERS SPOKE ABOUT US EXPERIENCE IN INTEGRATING SCHOOLS. BISHOP BUTHELEZI FROM UMTATA (FY 74 IVP) GAVE HIS IMPRESSIONS OF WHAT HE SAW IN US SCHOOL SYSTEMS, POINTING OUT THAT AMERICAN WHITES WHO FEARED STANDARDS OF EDUCATION WOULD BE LOWERED THROUGH INTEGRATION FOUND THOSE FEARS TO BE UNJUSTIFIED. FY 77 CROSSROADS AFRICA GRANTEE WILLIE HOODS SAID HE FOUND IN THE US TREMENDOUS ENCOURAGEMENT AND SUPPORT BY AMERICAN CATHOLICS FOR THEIR CHURCH'S STAND ON INTEGRATION OF SCHOOLS IN RSA. JOHNSON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CATHOLICS, RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, SCHOOLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 29-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977JOHANN02293
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770311-1026
Format: TEL
From: JOHANNESBURG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770813/aaaaaktm.tel
Line Count: 108
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 9d025851-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1452661
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CATHOLICS DEBATE POLICY ON OPEN SCHOOLS
TAGS: SEDU, PINT, SF
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9d025851-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009